which has acquired considerable vested interests in the country, one by the merchants, traders and factory owners, and one by the non-official members of Town Improvement Committees. All adult persons, including women, have a place in the general electorate, the only qualification being the payment of an annual land revenue of not less than Rs. 25 or the possession of an annual income of not less than Rs. 2,000. All graduates of a recognised University, of not less than ten years' standing and having not less than five years' residence in the State, are also qualified to be voters. The three remaining non-official seats have been reserved by the Government for safeguarding the interests of unrepresented minorities. The rights of interpellation and budget discussion have been conferred upon the Council.

14. Central Prison.—The number of prisoners fell from 509 at the close of 1093 to 455 at the close of 1094, the average daily strength of convicted prisoners in 1094 decreasing from 527 to 455. The number of admissions of reconvicted prisoners declined from 192 to 185. That in a year of unprecedented scarcity and high prices there was only so much of serious crime is a matter for genuine satisfaction. The daily average of the sick fell from 6 to 3, and the number of admissions into the hospital from 129 to 102. The revised Jail Rules were brought into force and non-official visitors were appointed as provided for therein.

15. Courts.—In view of the volume of arrears pending in the High Court and in some of the District Courts, sanction has been accorded to the continuance of the temporary Additional Bench in the High Court and the temporary Second Judges' Courts at Nagercoil and Kottayam till the end of 1095. The Additional Munsiff's Court at Tiruvalla was transferred to Changanachery, and a temporary Additional Munsiff's Court was opened at Kottarakara to work up the arrears. Seeing that the six Village Panchayat Courts established in 1092 were turning out good work, the system was extended to the remaining thirteen municipal towns also with effect from the beginning of 1095. A Stationary Second Class Magistrate's Court has been established at Muvattupuzha.

16. Registration.—The compilation of a Manual of Registration, the revision of certain standing orders, and the issue of a code of instructions relating to the inspection work of District Registrars were undertaken by the Director of Registration during 1094. The institution of two departmental examinations was sanctioned by Government to ensure greater efficiency in the work of registration.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

17. Agriculture.—Copies of the report of the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries for 1094 will, as usual, be placed in your hands, from which you will obtain detailed information regarding the working of the Department during the year. The staff of the Department was strengthened by the appointment of a Mycologist who has already had his training in Europe. He is being deputed for a course of further training to the Imperial Research Institute at Pusa, so that he may be thoroughly equipped for dealing with the diseases of tropical crops. The soil survey of Nanchanad, the most important paddy-growing portion of the State, has been completed, and a bulletin on the subject will be soon published. From the experiments so far conducted at the punja experimental farm at Alleppey, it is seen that liming and thorough ploughing in the hot weather are beneficial to punja lands, and that, by the application of suitable manures, those lands may be made to yield a successful crop every year, instead of only in alternate years as at present. From a calculation recently made by Dr. Kunjan Pillai, he has come to the conclusion that, if Travancore should produce all the paddy required for the consumption of her population, she should increase her local production by 1,64,000 tons per annum, and that if all this increase is to be obtained by the sole process of extension of cultivation, an additional area of 1,64,000 acres of double-crop lands should be brought under the plough. There is no scope for this extensive additional area being made available for cultivation. A conference for the discussion of measures calculated to increase the production of paddy in the State was held under my presidency on the 10th

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September 1919. It was attended by the Division Peishkars and the Commissioner, Devicolam, the Chief Secretary to Government, the Conservator of Forests, the Director of Civil Supplies and the Director of Agriculture. A G. O. has since been issued indicating the lines on which action is proposed to be taken by the Government in pursuance of the resolutions arrived at in that conference, and it will be seen from that G. O. that every possible measure will be devised by the Government to extend the area of food-production in the State. In regard to the question of disafforestation, it will be well to bear in mind that compact areas more than a hundred acres in extent are not available anywhere for being conveniently thrown out for the cultivation of paddy without detriment to forest conservancy, and that in these circumstances all that the Government can do is only to consider each application for the registry of blocks within reserves as it comes up and dispose of it on the merits. The proposals now under consideration to register about 2,000 acres of land outside the reserves in the Devicolam Division at concessional rates, to pursue the investigation of the Adirapalli irrigation scheme, to take early steps for the registry of the *kari* lands near the Tottappalli lock and to throw open further areas from the backwaters for the cultivation of paddy, will, I hope, go an appreciable way towards the solution of the food problem in the State. It is also in contemplation to depute a senior officer of the Public Works Department to undertake a systematic investigation into the conditions of the sources of irrigation in the different parts of the country, with a view to enable the Government to take steady and sustained action in the matter of their restoration and upkeep. Apart from this general scheme, a committee, composed of officials and non-officials, has been appointed to enquire into and report on the improvement of the irrigation tanks in the Neyyattinkara taluk. Though, by these and other means, it may be possible to make a tangible addition to the area of paddy growth, there is no guarantee that the area will remain as such, and that the more commercially attractive crops such as cocoanut and rubber will not reduce even the available area with increasing rapidity as years advance. The only safe way out of the situation is to resort to intensive cultivation by the adoption of the improved methods demonstrated by the Agricultural Department. In the selection of seeds, application of manure, use of implements, and process of cultivation, the Department has valuable lessons to give and it is for the ryots concerned to profit by those lessons and prove to be of help to themselves and the country by showing that paddy is in no way less remunerative than cocoanut. In the Rules which are being framed under the Land Improvement and Agricultural Loans Regulation, IX of 1094, ample facilities will be afforded for the distribution of cheap credit for agricultural purposes. The Department will also demonstrate the scientific growth of leaf manure in the near future. Dr. Kunjan Pillai looks forward to a time when all the 2,00,000 acres of punja land in the country could be cultivated annually, and if this ideal which is to be so devoutly wished for is capable of even partial realisation, the Department will have just cause to congratulate itself on that achievement. The vernacular quarterly journal published by the Department has been converted into a monthly under the designation of 'The Travancore Economic Journal' and is now the common organ of the Departments of Agriculture and Fisheries, Industries and Co-operation. Lands have been placed at the disposal of the Director of Agriculture for the purpose of opening fresh demonstration farms at Shencottah, Shertallay, Alwaye and Muvattupuzha, and it is in contemplation to extend the operations of the paddy farm at Nagercoil, and to open a fruit farm, a pepper farm, a cattle-breeding farm and a poultry farm in different parts of the country, besides starting an agricultural school at Alwaye. Steady progress has been made in the popularisation of sericulture as a cottage industry. Arrangements have been made for starting prawn culture as an experimental measure at Ayiramtengu near Kayankulam.

18. **Statistics.**—The Assistant Secretary to Government in charge of the Statistical Section in the General and Revenue Secretariat was deputed to Calcutta and Bangalore to study the methods of compilation of agricultural and other statistics. He has returned after training and is now engaged in compiling a volume of useful statistics for Travancore.

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19. Industries.—The report on the industrial survey of Travancore, submitted by Dr. Barker, was printed, and the volume is now running through its second edition. Five more bulletins on important industrial subjects have been issued. The four Travancore scholars who are undergoing industrial training in Europe have been acquitting themselves creditably and winning various distinctions. The experiments conducted by the Shellac Assistant at Aramboly having proved the possibility of the extraction of shellac as a profitable cottage industry, the term of his appointment has been extended and he has been directed to make similar investigations and demonstrations in other parts of the country. An apicultural class for one year has been opened at Nedumangad with effect from the beginning of 1095, with arrangements for a full course of instruction and the promise of a grant for the purchase of a complete set of apparatus to every pupil who comes out successful at the end of the course. An industrial exhibition on a modest scale was conducted at Trivandrum during the last Assembly week, the collection being confined to local goods. Arrangements have been made for the opening of three depots, one each in North, Central and South Travancore, for the development of the bamboo, screw-pine and weaving industries respectively; the encouragement of minor cottage industries such as the manufacture of glazed pottery and plantain fibre has been provided for; and it is in contemplation to open two factories, one for jaggery manufacture in Tiruvalla and the other for oil distillation in Muvattupuzha. The latter will be placed under the control of the Travancore scholar who has returned after completing his course of training in the Indian Institute of Science at Bangalore. Schemes for the establishment of a pencil factory at Alwaye and a match factory at Nagercoil at private expense have been sanctioned, and a pencil expert trained at the instance of the Government has been appointed to supervise the former. The investigation of the possibilities of the paper pulp industry has been taken up by the Department and orders have been issued directing the Divisional Officers of the Forest Department to help the Department of Industries in this matter. Arrangements have also been made for the organisation of industrial conferences and exhibitions, and for the formation of industrial associations in important centres. It has also been decided to establish an Industrial Museum and Bureau with the public subscriptions collected for a permanent institution in commemoration of the *Shashtyabdapurti* of His Highness the Maha Raja. With a view to overcome the difficulty of securing tonnage for the sea-borne trade of Travancore, it was deemed desirable to revive the indigenous industry of ship-building, and concessions were granted in the matter of timber and site to intending ship-builders. These concessions were availed of by Messrs. Darragh Smail and Co., Ltd., Alleppey, and the Commercial Union, Ltd., Quilon, for the construction of two *pattamars* and two schooners respectively. One of the *pattamars*, 'Lakshmi Pasha' has already been launched at Alleppey, while the other vessels are nearing completion.

20. Co-operative Societies.—With a view to ensure efficient inspection, the State has been divided into six administrative circles and the number of Inspectors has been increased from two to six, each circle being placed in charge of an Inspector. The number of co-operative societies rose from 45 in 1093 to 101 in 1094. The steady increase in the number of societies shows that the co-operative movement is making headway in Travancore and that its benefits are being more and more appreciated by the public. Of the societies, 100 were primary, and one alone, *viz.*, the Co-operative Bank in Trivandrum was central; and of the former, 82 were agricultural and 18 non-agricultural. The number of members in the primary societies rose from 2,796 to 6,432, and their share capital from Bh. Rs. 30,574 to Bh. Rs. 41,833. All the societies were audited during the year and the work of each society separately reviewed.

21. Trade and Marine.—The total volume of external trade rose from Bh. Rs. 820·27 lakhs in 1093 to Bh. Rs. 904·10 lakhs in 1094. The value, *per capita*, of the exports and imports increased from Bh. Rs. 15·1 and 8·8 to 16·5 and 9·8 during the year. Under the Ports Regulation, I of 1094, port dues were levied in the ports of Quilon, Trivandrum and Colachel in addition to Alleppey. Revised Boat Rules were also passed under the new Regulation.

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22. Railway.—The financial prospects of the extension of the railway from Quilon to Trivandrum continue to be encouraging. In 1094 the traffic receipts from the entire Travancore branch were so far favourable as to yield a net revenue of Rs. 1,61,886 to the Government, after payment of the guaranteed interest on the capital raised for the construction of the Shencottah-Quilon line. The total outlay on the extension of the line from Quilon to Trivandrum up to the end of October 1919 was Rs. 51,05,770. Its further extension to the pier at Trivandrum has been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 95,400. The construction of the Srimulavilasam Railway Satrom at Trivandrum, which has been sanctioned out of the private funds of His Highness the Maha Raja, is making progress.

23. Anchal.—The total number of hundies, inland and foreign, rose from 2,57,500 in 1093 to 2,72,224 in 1094 and their value from 31·54 lakhs to 35·36 lakhs. Motor Anchal service was introduced between Kottarakara and Kottayam.

24. Local Self-Government.—Since the close of the year, the Town Improvement Committees of Quilon, Kottayam and Parur have been placed under non-official Presidents, with the result that six municipal towns are now under non-official administration. The new Municipal Bill is ripe for promulgation. A Bill for the formation of Local Boards will be soon introduced in the Legislative Council. The Town Improvement Committees, as a whole, have steadily grown in prosperity during the last quinquennium. Their receipts rose from 1·75 lakhs in 1093 to 1·97 lakhs in 1094, their expenditure from 1·65 lakhs to 1·88 lakhs and their closing balance from 1·02 lakhs to 1·11 lakhs.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

25. Medical relief and Sanitation.—Sub-Assistant Surgeons in independent charge of medical institutions were authorised to perform *post mortem* examinations for medico-legal purposes. Sanction has been accorded to the entertainment of 13 additional midwives, so that every medical institution may have at least one midwife attached to it. A septic ward has been opened in the Women and Children's Hospital at Trivandrum. The establishment of a bacteriological laboratory at Trivandrum has been sanctioned. On the reported outbreak of plague at Mattancheri in Cochin, a set of detailed instructions was issued for preventing the disease being imported into Travancore, and these instructions were found to be of great practical use. Arrangements were made for stocking an adequate supply of cholera medicines in all important Sirkar medical institutions, so that they might be easily obtained by the officers of the Land Revenue Department for free distribution in the event of epidemic outbreaks. Orders were passed approving of the Ag. Darbar Physician's suggestion to introduce prophylactic vaccine treatment against cholera as an experimental measure. An Executive Engineer has been deputed to undertake the necessary investigations in connection with a scheme for the supply of water for the town of Trivandrum and action will be taken by the Government on receipt of his reply. The Department of Ayurveda is becoming increasingly popular, and the various facilities afforded in both the Dispensary and the Pharmacy at Trivandrum are being adequately availed of by the public.

EDUCATION.

26. Statistics.—The number of recognised institutions rose from 2,828 in 1093 to 2,845 in 1094, but their strength fell from 3,75,448 to 3,65,868, showing a decrease of 9,580 pupils. This decrease was almost wholly in the strength of the vernacular schools, there being an increase of 134 pupils in the colleges and 2,497 pupils in the English schools. The decrease is attributed to the prevailing economic distress, which has adversely affected the poorer strata of society from which pupils to the vernacular schools are drawn. While aided schools increased from 1,394 to 1,621 and their strength from 1,35,697 to 1,49,865, the number of unaided schools and the strength in them showed a marked fall, from 346 and 24,424 to 125 and 10,428 respectively. The number of unrecognised schools, on the other hand, in which the education imparted does not approximate to any fixed standard in point

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